

2010

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2009 Wing Island Banding Station

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included those given to members, visiting scientists, visiting birders, and people who just walk in! Forty migrants were swabbed for H5N1 Avian Influenza virus testing and samples were sent to UCLA and government labs at Madison, WI, all negative to date.

The six White-eyed Vireos banded this fall exceed any total for the previous decade, although we have been unable to confirm breeding in recent years. In the 1960s and 1970s, as many as nine pairs bred on 40 acres of Manomet property in coastal Plymouth.

The Numbers: New Bandings = 1,137; Repeat Captures = 903; TOTAL = 2,040 of 69 species.

This autumn, a below-average number of birds per net hour were banded. Individual bandings were the second lowest recorded, partly caused by closed nets during adverse weather. A wet and windy spring was followed by a hot, wet summer and early fall. The flurry of captures at the end of August were mostly local breeders. The rest of the season featured rain and wind, but seldom from the NW, the direction which drifts nocturnal landbird migrants to the New England coast. The only notable migration peak was in mid-October and was led by white-throats, Myrtle Warblers and kinglets. Local seed and berry production seemed plentiful for the reduced numbers of migrants through November. Our busiest days were 28 Aug (114 captures), 14 Oct (94), 24 Aug. (86), 31 Aug (81), 27 Aug (78) and 9 Oct (70). A discouraging two species were banded in greater numbers this fall, when compared with the last 10 years: these were American Redstart and Swainson's Thrush. When compared with the same previous 10-year period, 39 species were below average, including short-distance and Neotropical migrants. Such diverse species as chickadees, Blackpoll Warbler and Northern Waterthrush reached all-time lows. New bandings were led by catbirds, as usual.

Two immature Rusty Blackbirds were the first banded since 17 Oct 1994, 15 years ago. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is most unusual at Manomet recently, while three Yellow (Eastern) Palm Warblers are much less frequent than the more

usual Western race in fall. A Red-shouldered and a Broad-winged hawk were unexpected because they are a bit big for the nets and usually "bounce out." Sparse but regular warblers banded included two each of Orange-crowned, Blackburnian, and Hooded. Notable recaptures this fall (62 from previous seasons) included: a titmouse first banded as a hatch year on 19 Oct 2005 (4 years old); three-year-old House Wren, chickadee, cardinal and seven catbirds; fifteen two-year-olds; and 36 banded birds one year old.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the fall migration banding and education season of 2009 such a success. We are also greatly indebted to Manomet members and to several foundations for financial support of these programs.

Wing Island Banding Station

414-0700

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
Brewster, MA

Banders: *Susan Finnegan* (compiler), *Gretchen Putonen*, *Carolyn Kennedy*

Assistants: Peter Brown, Judith Bruce, Sheryl & Lauren Johnson, Judy Keller, Ben Porter, and Michelle Stantial

Our season began 7 Aug and continued through 21 Nov. Northerly winds prevailed on banding days for Aug/Sep and turned southerly in Oct/Nov. We banded a total of 1,954 birds of 73 species, 80% of those were HY birds. Myrtle Warbler topped the charts again this year as our most numerous bird for the fall— 621 birds.

Net hours totaled 5,370 for a capture rate of 36 new b/100nh. Our largest daily catch was on 11 Oct for a total of 229 birds. The best species diversity of 24 species was on both 9 and 21 Oct. New species added this fall included a second state record for Massachusetts: an Allen's Hummingbird captured in Scituate, MA on 29 Oct, a Townsend's Warbler on 7 Nov, and a Seaside Sparrow on 16 Nov. We banded another Rose-breasted Grosbeak for only the second time since 2006.

Birds that returned to us from previous years totaled 26. This does not include returns we may have captured in the spring or summer and again in fall. A Common Yellowthroat and an American Goldfinch were five years old and two goldfinches were four years old. Two Northern Cardinals and a Pine Warbler were three years old.

From 2000 through 2004, we had consistent numbers of American Tree Sparrows, but have not captured any in the past five years. There has also been a troublesome decline in Northern Mockingbirds during the past two years. I used to see them breeding all over the island but have not observed any breeding behavior lately. We saw an increase in the 10-year average of a number of our breeders, including American Robin, Blue Jay, Carolina Wren, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Towhee, and Northern Cardinal, as well as an above-average number of migrants—Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, and Myrtle and Orange-crowned warblers. Below-average numbers were recorded for Baltimore Oriole, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Kingbird and Yellow and Prairie warblers. Lower-than-average numbers of migrants included Red-eyed Vireos, Yellow-breasted Chat, both Western and Yellow Palm warblers, and White-throated Sparrow.

An interesting capture on 25 Aug was an adult male American Goldfinch with both an enlarged cloacal protuberance and a vascularized, endometrous brood patch with fluid. Numerous birds were captured with deformed mandibles, including four catbirds, three chickadees, a cardinal, a Myrtle Warbler and a Golden-crowned Kinglet. A first-year catbird was found to have symmetrical molt of the ss 5-6 and a hatching-year Myrtle Warbler presented with extensive streaking on the breast apparently still in juvenal body plumage.

We lost our funding for the Cape and Islands tick study, so this year ticks were pulled from birds for Yale University's research project.

Visitors to the banding station included banders from the UK and Seattle, WA, and members of the Cape Cod Bird Club, plus many drop-ins!

Thank-you to all the dedicated banders and assistants mentioned above whom graciously volunteer their time. We appreciate the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History for allowing us to house our banding lab at their facility.

Dam Pond Maritime Reserve 410-0722

Orient Point, NY

Bander: **George Rowsom**

Assistants: Jody Levin, Edward Leary

This is the first report from Dam Pond Maritime Reserve, located about five miles west of Orient Point, NY. It is a 36-ac parcel between Long Island Sound and a shallow tidal salt pond flowing into and out of Orient Harbor. Old field succession, mixed hardwood forest and salt marsh are its main habitat types. Nets are at the west end of the pond where the dominant vegetation is Atlantic red cedar, autumn olive, groundsel-tree, bayberry, and phragmites.

We used one to three 12-m nets, depending on flight activity. Our highest capture rate was during the period Oct 11th through Oct 20th. Sixty three birds were captured in five net hours. We should have increased effort for the busy October period in 2010.

The banding lab questioned the Nashville Warbler we banded on 7 Nov, because of the late date. We were able to provide them with dated digital images. I was hoping we would capture some birds banded on Block Island, but no such luck.

Island Beach State Park 395-0740

Seaside Park, NJ

Compiler: **Glenn Mahler**

Banders: **Mary Doscher, Thomas Greg, Jennifer Hanley, Ted Hicks, Robert McKinney, and Robert Yunick.**

Assistants: Marge Appleby, Chita McKinney, Martha O'Rourke, Ann Pitchell, Bev Schilling and Alex Tongas

During the fall 2009 banding season, six banders operated banding stations at four locations at Island